

# The Native American.

VOL. I.

WASHINGTON CITY, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1838.

NO. 40

Printed by J. C. DUNN for the N. A. Association.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

TERMS.—Subscriptions for one year, \$2 50 in advance, or \$3 00 if paid at the end of three months. For six months, \$1 50 in advance. Advertisements inserted at the usual rates.

All letters relating to the pecuniary interests of the Paper to be addressed, postage paid, to the Publisher, JAMES C. DUNN.

All letters relating to the Editorial department to be directed, postage paid, to the Editor of the Native American.

Those subscribers for a year, who do not give notice of their wish to have the paper discontinued at the end of their year, will be presumed as desiring its continuance until countermanded, and it will accordingly be continued at the option of the publisher.

The following is an extract from Lee's Memoirs of the War in the southern department of the United States. It relates to the military services of John Champe, a native of Loudoun county, Va., whose love of country and daring valor led him to peril his life in that war, which resulted in our independence. We publish the narrative, because we think it adorns some of the brightest pages in American history, and is calculated to excite in every patriotic breast the most generous esteem for a brave and noble soldier. The perusal of it a second time by those who are familiar with the incident, cannot but be considered as time pleasantly spent; while it will impart rapturous emotions in all who have never before read it.

May not some descendant of the gallant Champe and that of those men against whom he so valiantly contended for our rights and our liberty, be now competitors for honors and offices in this country? Who think ye, Americans, will be the successful candidate according to the prevailing dispensation? If the answer given be drawn from past experience, it would be—the sons of our enemies.

Shortly subsequent to the death of Walter Scott the design of contributing to the erection of a monument to his memory was entertained by some of our citizens. American liberality is surely extensive enough to over-extend the globe. But while it embraces the subjects of a Monarch, might we not spare a little from its abundance to preserve the name of one who risked all for liberty?

It may apply be said of Champe, as it was of the unfortunate Pompey, who fell by the hand of an assassin in his flight from the victorious Caesar—"He who deserves a monument can scarce find a tomb."

Extract from Lee's Memoirs of the Revolutionary War, in the Southern Department.

Lately, John Champe, sergeant major of the legion cavalry, who had been for several months considered by the corps as a deserter, returned. This high-minded soldier had been selected to undertake a very difficult and perilous project, the narration of which is due to his merit, as well as to the singularity of his progress.

The treason of Brigadier General Arnold, the capture of Andre, with intelligence received by Washington, through his confidential agents in New York, communicating that many of his officers, and especially a major general named to him, were connected with Arnold, could not fail to seize the attention of a commander less diligent and zealous. It engrossed his mind entirely, exciting sensations the most anxious, as well as unpleasant. The moment he reached the army, then under the orders of Major General Greene, encamped in the vicinity of Tappan, he sent for Major Lee, posted with the light troops some distance in front. This officer repaired to headquarters with celerity, and found the general in his marquee alone, busily engaged in writing. As soon as Lee entered, he was requested to take a seat, and a bundle of papers, lying on the table, was given to him for perusal. In these much information was detailed, tending to prove that Arnold was not alone in the base conspiracy just detected, but that the poison had spread; and that a major general, whose name was not concealed, was certainly as guilty as Arnold himself. This officer had enjoyed, without interruption, the confidence of the commander-in-chief throughout the war; nor did there exist a single reason in support of the accusation. It altogether rested upon the intelligence derived from the papers before him. Major Lee, personally acquainted with the accused, could not refrain from suggesting the probability that the whole was a contrivance of Sir Henry Clinton, in order to destroy that confidence between the commander and his officers, on which the success of military operations depends. This suggestion, Washington replied, was plausible, and deserved due consideration. It had early occurred to his own mind, and had not been slightly regarded; but his reflections settled in a conclusion not to be shaken, as the same suggestion applied to no officer more forcibly than a few days ago it would have done to General Arnold, known now to be a traitor.

Announcing this result of his meditations, with the tone and countenance of a mind deeply agitated, and resolved upon its course, Lee continued silent, when the general proceeded: "I have sent for you, in the expectation that you have in your corps individuals capable and willing to undertake an indispensable, delicate, and hazardous project. Whoever comes forward upon this occasion, will lay me under great obligations personally, and, in behalf of the United States, I will reward him amply. No time is to be lost: he must proceed, if possible, this night. My object is to probe to the bottom the afflicting intelligence contained in the papers you have just read, to seize Arnold, and, by getting him, to save Andre. They are all connected. While my emissary is engaged in preparing means for the seizure of Arnold, the guilt of others can be traced, and the timely delivery of Arnold to me will possibly put it into my power to restore the amiable and unfortunate Andre to his friends. My instructions are ready, in which you will find my express orders that Arnold is not to be hurt; but that he be permitted to escape, if to be prevented only by killing him, as his public punishment is the only object in view. This you cannot too forcibly press upon whomsoever may engage in the enterprise; and this fail not to do. With my instructions are two letters, to be delivered as ordered, and here are some guineas for expenses."

Major Lee, replying, said that he had little or no doubt but that his legion contained many individuals daring enough for any operation, however perilous; but that the one in view required a combination of qualities not easily to be found, unless in a commissioned officer, to whom he could not venture to propose an enterprise the first step to which was desertion. That, though

the sergeant major of the cavalry was in all respects qualified for the delicate and adventurous project, and to him it might be proposed without delicacy, as his station did not interpose the obstacle before stated, yet it was very probable that the same difficulty would occur in his breast, to remove which would not be easy, if practicable.

Washington was highly pleased with finding that a non-commissioned officer was deemed capable of executing his views, as he had felt extreme difficulty in authorizing an invitation to officers who generally are, and always ought to be, scrupulous and nice in adhering to the course of honor. He asked the name, the country, the age, the size, length of service, and character, of the sergeant.

Being told his name, that he was a native of Loudoun county, in Virginia, about twenty-three or twenty-four years of age, that he had enlisted in 1776, rather above the common size, full of bone and muscle, with a saturnine countenance, grave, thoughtful and taciturn, of tried courage and inflexible perseverance, and as likely to reject an overture coupled with ignominy as any officer in the corps; a commission being the goal of his long and anxious exertions, and certain on the first vacancy.

The general exclaimed that he was the very man for the business; that he must undertake it; and that going to the enemy by the instigation and at the request of his officer was not desertion, although it appeared to be so; and he enjoined that this explanation, as coming from him, should be pressed on Champe; and that the vast good in prospect should be contrasted with the mere semblance of doing wrong, which he presumed could not fail to conquer every scruple. Major Lee assured the general that every exertion would be essayed on his part to execute his wishes; and, taking leave, returned to the camp of the light corps, which he reached about eight o'clock at night. Sending instantly for the sergeant major, he introduced the business in the way best calculated, as he thought, to produce his concurrence, and dilated largely on the very great obligations he would confer on the commander-in-chief, whose unchanging and active beneficence to the troops had justly drawn to him their affection, which would be merely nominal, if, when an opportunity should offer to any individual of contributing to the promotion of his views, that opportunity was not zealously embraced.

That the one now presented to him had never before occurred, and in all probability never would occur again, even should the war continue for ages; it being most rare for three distinct consequences, all of primary weight, to be comprised within a single operation, and that operation necessarily to be intrusted to one man, who would want but one or two associates in the active part of its execution. That the chance of detection became extremely narrow, and that consequently that of success enlarged. That, by succeeding in the safe delivery of Arnold, he not only gratified his general in the most acceptable manner, but he would be hailed as the avenger of the reputation of the army, stained by foul and wicked perfidy; and, what could not but be highly pleasing, he would be the instrument of saving the life of Major Andre, soon to be brought before a court of inquiry, the decision of which could not be doubted, from the universally known circumstances of the case, and had been anticipated in the general's instructions. That by investigating with diligence and accuracy the intelligence communicated to him, he would bring to light new guilt, or he would relieve innocence (as was most probable) from distrust; quieting the torturing suspicions which now harrowed the mind of Washington, and restoring again to his confidence a once-honored general, possessing it at present only ostensibly, as well as hush doubts affecting many of his brother soldiers.

In short, the accomplishment of so much good was in itself too attractive to be renounced by a generous mind; and, when connected with the recollection of the high honor which the selection shed upon him, as a soldier, he ought not, he must not, pause. This discourse was followed by a detail of the plan, with a wish that he would enter upon its execution instantly. Champe listened with deep attention, and with a highly excited countenance; the perturbations of his breast not being hid even by his dark visage. He briefly and modestly replied, that no soldier exceeded him in respect and affection for the commander-in-chief, to serve whom he would willingly lay down his life; and that he was sensible of the honor conferred by the choice of him for the execution of a project all over arduous; nor could he be at a loss to know to whom was to be ascribed the preference bestowed, which he took pleasure in acknowledging, although increasing obligations before great and many.

That he was charmed with the plan. Even its partial success would lead to great good; as it would give peace to the general's mind, and do justice, as he hoped, to innocence. Full success added powerful and delicious personal excitements, as well as the gratification of the general and army. He was not, he said, deterred by the danger and difficulty which was evidently to be encountered, but he was deterred by the ignominy of desertion, to be followed by the hypocrisy of enlisting with the enemy, neither of which comported with his feelings, and either placed an insuperable bar in his way to promotion.

He concluded by observing, if any mode could be contrived free from disgrace, he would cordially embark in the enterprise; as it was, he prayed to be excused; and hoped that services, always the best in his power to perform, faithfully performed, did entitle him to success. The objections at first apprehended, now to be combated, were extended to a consequence which had not suggested itself. Lee candidly admitted that he had expected the first objection made, and that only; which had been imparted to the general, who gave it to full consideration, and concluded by declaring that the crime of desertion was not incurred, as no act done by the soldier, at the request of the commander-in-chief, could be considered as desertion; and that an action so manifestly praiseworthy as that to be performed, when known, would dissipate, by its own force, the reflections excited by appearance, which no doubt would be acrimonious, leaving the actor in full enjoyment of the future rich rewards of his virtue. That the reflecting mind ought not to balance between the achievement of so much good, and the doing wrong in semblance only; to which Major Lee subjoined, that, when in consequence of the general's call upon him for a soldier capable and

willing to execute a project so tempting to the brave, he considered himself and corps highly honored; and that he should consider himself reduced to a mortifying condition, if the resistance to the undertaking compelled him to inform the general that he must recur to some other corps to provide an agent to execute this necessary and bold enterprise.

He entreated the sergeant to ask himself what must be the sensations of his comrades, if a soldier from some other corps should execute the enterprise; when they should be told that the glory transferred to the regiment of which he was one might have been enjoyed by the legion, had not Sergeant Champe shrunk from the overtures made to him by his general, rather than reject scruples too narrow and confined to be permitted to interfere with grand and virtuous deeds. The esprit du corps could not be resisted, and, united to his inclination, it subdued his prejudices, and he declared his willingness to conform to the wishes of the general; relying, as he confidently did, that his reputation would be protected by those who had induced him to undertake the enterprise, should he be unfortunate in the attempt.

The instructions were read to him, and every distinct object presented plainly to his view, of which he took notes so disguised as to be understood only by himself. He was particularly cautioned to use the utmost circumspection in delivering his letters, and to take care to withhold from the two individuals, addressed under feigned names, knowledge of each other; for although both had long been in the confidence of the general, yet it was not known by one that the other was so engaged.

He was further urged to bear in constant recollection the solemn injunctions so pointedly expressed in the instructions to Major Lee, of forbearing to kill Arnold in any condition of things.

This part of the business being finished, the major and sergeant's deliberations were turned to the manner of the latter's desertion; for it was well known to both, that to pass the numerous patrols of horse and foot crossing from the stationary guards was itself difficult, which was now rendered more so by parties thrown occasionally beyond the place called Liberty Pole, as well as by swarms of irregulars, induced sometimes to venture down to the very point at Paulus Hook, with the hope of picking up booty. Evidently discernible as were the difficulties in the way, no relief could be administered by Major Lee, lest it might induce a belief that he was privy to the desertion, which opinion getting to the enemy would involve the life of Champe. The sergeant was left to his own resources and to his own management, with the declared determination, that in case his departure should be discovered before morning, Lee would take care to delay pursuit as long as was practicable.

Giving to the sergeant three guineas, and presenting his best wishes, he recommended him to start without delay, and enjoined him to communicate his arrival in New York as soon thereafter as might be practicable. Champe, pulling out his watch, compared it with the major's, reminding the latter of the importance of holding back pursuit, which he was convinced would take place in the course of the night, and which might be fatal, as he knew that he should be obliged to zigzag in order to avoid the patrols, which would consume time. It was now nearly eleven. The sergeant returned to camp, and, taking his cloak, valise and orderly book, he drew his horse from the picket, and, mounting him, put himself upon fortune. Lee, charmed with his expeditious consummation of the first part of the enterprise, retired to rest. Useless attempt! The past scene could not be obliterated; and, indeed, had that been practicable, the interruption which ensued would have stopped repose.

Within half an hour, Captain Carnes, officer of the day, waited upon the major, and, with considerable emotion, told him that one of the patrol had fallen in with a dragoon, who, being challenged, put spur to his horse, and escaped, though instantly pursued. Lee, complaining of the interruption, and pretending to be extremely fatigued by his ride to and from headquarters, answered as if he did not understand what had been said, which compelled the captain to repeat it. Who can the fellow that was pursued be? inquired the major; adding, a countryman, probably. No, replied the captain, the patrol sufficiently distinguished him as to know that he was a dragoon; probably, one from the army; if not, certainly one of our own. This idea was ridiculed, from its improbability, as during the whole war but a single dragoon had deserted from the legion. This did not convince Carnes, so much stress was it now the fashion to lay on the desertion of Arnold, and the probable effect of his example. The captain withdrew to examine the squadron of horse, whom he had ordered to assemble in pursuance of established usage on similar occasions. Very quickly he returned, stating that the scoundrel was known, and was no less a person than the sergeant major, who had gone off with his horse, baggage, arms, and orderly book; so presumed, as neither the one nor the other could be found. Sensibly affected at the supposed baseness of a soldier extremely respected, the captain added that he had ordered a party to make ready for pursuit, and begged the major's written orders.

Occasionally this discourse was interrupted, and every idea suggested which the excellent character of the sergeant warranted, to induce the suspicion that he had not deserted, but had taken the liberty to leave camp with a view to personal pleasure; an example, said Lee, too often set by the officers themselves, destructive as it was of discipline, opposed as it was to orders, and disastrous as it might prove to the corps in the course of service.

Some little delay was thus interposed; but, it being now announced that the pursuing party was ready, Major Lee directed a change in the officer, saying that he had a particular service in view, which he had determined to intrust to the lieutenant ready for duty, and which, probably, must be performed in the morning. He therefore directed him to summon Cornet Middleton for the present command. Lee was induced thus to act, first, to add to the delay, and, next, from his knowledge of the tenderness of Middleton's disposition, which he hoped would lead to the protection of Champe, should he be taken. Within ten minutes Middleton appeared to receive his orders, which were delivered to him made out in the customary form, and signed by the major. "Pursue so far as you can with safety Sergeant

Champe, who is suspected of deserting to the enemy, and has taken the road leading to Paulus Hook. Bring him alive, that he may suffer in the presence of the army; but kill him if he resists, or escapes after being taken."

Detaining the cornet a few minutes longer, in advising him what course to pursue, urging him to take care of the horse and accoutrements, if recovered; and enjoining him to be on his guard, lest he might, by his eager pursuit, in providently fall into the hands of the enemy, the major dismissed Middleton, wishing him success. A shower of rain fell soon after Champe's departure, which enabled the pursuing dragoons to take the trail of his horse, knowing, as officer and trooper did, the make of their shoes, whose impression was an unerring guide.

When Middleton departed, it was a few minutes past twelve; so that Champe had only the start of rather more than an hour; by no means as long as was desired. Lee became very unhappy, not only because the estimable and gallant Champe might be injured, but lest the enterprise might be delayed; and he spent a sleepless night. The pursuing party during the night was, on their part, delayed by the necessary halts to examine occasionally the road, as the impression of the horse's shoes directed their course; this was, unfortunately, too evident, no other horse having passed along the road since the shower. When the day broke, Middleton was no longer forced to halt, and he pressed on with rapidity. Ascending an eminence before he reached the Three Pigeons, some miles on the north of the village of Bergen, as the pursuing party reached its summit, Champe was descried not more than a half mile in front. Resembling an Indian in his vigilance, the sergeant at the same moment discovered the party, (whose object he was no stranger to), and, giving spur to his horse, he determined to outstrip his pursuers. Middleton at the same instant put his horses to the top of their speed; and being (as the legion all were) well acquainted with the country, he recollected a short route through the woods to the bridge below Bergen, which diverged from the great road just after you gain the Three Pigeons. Reaching the point of separation, he halted; and, dividing his party, directed a sergeant with a few dragoons to take the near cut, and possess with all possible despatch the bridge, while he with the residue followed Champe; not doubting but that Champe must deliver himself up, as he would be closed between himself and his sergeant. Champe did not forget the short cut, and would have taken it himself, but he knew it was the usual route of our parties, when returning in the day from the neighborhood of the enemy, properly preferring the woods to the road. He consequently avoided it; and, persuaded that Middleton would avail himself of it, wisely resolved to relinquish his intention of getting to Paulus Hook, and to seek refuge from two British galleys, lying a few miles to the west of Bergen.

This was a station always occupied by one or two galleys, and which, it was known, now lay there. Entering the village of Bergen, Champe turned to his right, and disguising his change of course as much as he could by taking the beaten streets, turning as they turned, he passed through the village and took the road towards Elizabeth town Point. Middleton's sergeant gained the bridge, where he concealed himself, ready to pounce upon Champe when he came up; and Middleton, pursuing his course through Bergen, soon got also to the bridge, when, to his extreme mortification, he found that the sergeant had slipped through his fingers. Returning up the road, he inquired of the villagers of Bergen, whether a dragoon had been seen that morning preceding his party. He was answered in the affirmative, but could learn nothing satisfactory as to the route he took. While engaged in inquiries himself, he spread his party through the village, to strike the trail of Champe's horse, a resort always resorted to. Some of his dragoons hit it just as the sergeant, leaving the village, got in the road to the Point. Pursuit was renewed with vigor, and again Champe was descried. He, apprehending the event, had prepared himself for it, by lashing his valise (containing his clothes and orderly book) on his shoulders, and holding his drawn sword in his hand, having thrown away its scabbard. This he did to save what was indispensable to him, and to prevent any interruption to his swimming, by the scabbard, should Middleton, as he presumed, when disappointed at the bridge, take the measures adopted by him. The pursuit was rapid and close, as the stop occasioned by the sergeant's preparations for swimming had brought Middleton within two or three hundred yards. As soon as Champe got abreast of the galleys, he dismounted, and running through the marsh to the river, plunged into it, calling upon the galleys for help. This was readily given; they fired upon his horse, and sent a boat to meet Champe, who was taken in and carried on board, and conveyed to New York, with a letter from the captain of the galley, stating the past scene, all of which he had seen.

The horse, with his equipments, the sergeant's cloak and sword scabbard, were recovered; the sword itself, being held by Champe until he plunged into the river, was lost, as Middleton found it necessary to retire without searching for it.

About three o'clock in the evening our party returned, and the soldiers, seeing the horse (well known to them) in our possession, made the air resound with acclamations that the scoundrel was killed.

Major Lee, called, by this heart-rending announcement, from his tent, saw the sergeant's horse led by one of Middleton's dragoons, and began to reproach himself with the blood of the high-prized, faithful, and intrepid Champe. Stifling his agony, he advanced to meet Middleton, and became somewhat relieved, as soon as he got near enough to discern the countenance of his officer and party. There was evidence in their looks of disappointment, and he was quickly relieved by Middleton's information, that the sergeant had effected his escape with the loss of his horse, and narrated the particulars just recited.

(To be concluded in our next.)

The Ohio Eagle states that one hundred and thirty packages of wheat passed through the Post office of that place, a short time since under the frank of a member of Congress! The packages were duly marked "Pub. Doc."—Dishonorable.

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.—We have lately read with much interest the sixth Annual Report of the Trustees of the New England Institution for the Education of the Blind. It appears that the present number of pupils is 63. Of the 60 who were in the institution at the date of the last Report, 31 can write legibly, and 25 are able to correspond with their friends by letter. Some of them have become good vocalists and performers on the piano and organ. The moral and religious nature of the pupils is developed, and they are instructed in the principles of Religion, and taught to recognise the existence of a benevolent God every where and in every thing, and can read his revealed Word understandingly. The older male pupils have acquired considerable dexterity and skill in the trades which are taught, and the females have become expert in sewing, netting, braiding, &c. Of the ten pupils which have been discharged from the institution during the past year, one has been engaged to undertake a new Institution in Ohio; another was so proficient in the science of Music, that he is at present a Teacher in the Academy at Derry, New Hampshire. Of the females, one only is required by her situation to depend on her own efforts for a livelihood, and it is confidently hoped she will be able to do so.

The Report states, that there is one subject which calls urgently for attention, and the claims for which the Trustees press strongly on public benevolence. It is their *Printing Establishment*. For three years, it is stated, the press has been kept constantly at work. Amongst other useful publications, they have published an outline of ancient and modern history; many of their books have been sent to England and Holland. But it is at present at a stand for want of funds. It is desirable to furnish for the pupils some compact Work on Morals, Statistics, and Belles Lettres, and it is hoped, when the fact is known, the Press will be again put in motion.—*Genius of Liberty*.

PHILADELPHIA, March 26.

Books.—The Great Trade Sale of 1838.—Philadelphia is becoming the *Leipzig* of America, as a great mart for literature. Our trade sales of books and stationery are the most extensive in the Union, and excite no ordinary degree of attention. They continue for several days, and invite hither booksellers and publishers from every section of the United States. In this respect, therefore, they are important to our city, while they cannot but afford great facilities to the trade generally. The sale for the spring of the present year has just terminated, and, considering the times and the state of the money market, it was, in all respects, an important feature in the business transactions of the nation. It was very numerously attended. The purchasers were 130 in number, embracing the heads of many of the leading houses from Maine to Louisiana. There were 113 sellers. Some idea may be formed of the extent of the sale from the fact that the total number of volumes sold amounted to 314,336. Among these were 12,102 bibles, 8,067 testaments, 6,367 dictionaries, 24,419 spelling books, 1,360 reams of paper, 5,957 hymn books, 3,160 prayer books, and 7,200 geographies. Carey, Lea & Co. disposed of 26,277 volumes; Andrews & Co. of 20,359; Thomas & Co. of 12,981; all others 254,719. The auctioneers were Messrs. Lord and Carlisle; and the sale took place in the large room, at the corner of Deatur and Market streets. The prices, generally, were excellent.—*Inquirer*.

RESUMPTION.—We learn that a large proportion of the Banks in this city, have been paying out specie for their small bills, several days past; there is now no lack of coin in circulation for common use. One bank in particular, as we learn from one of its officers, gave notice early last week, that specie would be paid at its counter. On the first day afterwards, two or three hundred dollars worth was called for; the next day, about four hundred dollars was paid out; the third day, much less amount was drawn, and yesterday not forty dollars in amount was demanded. In the meantime, some hundreds in specie were deposited. Indeed we presume that this would be the course, if every bank in the city should announce that their bills would be paid in coin.

Things now wear a bright aspect, and specie is now becoming plenty. In New York, it is a drug in the market, and bears no premium. Hundreds of thousands are being deposited as general deposits. The hard money humbug is nearly exploded, and every thing looks like a speedy return to the good old times, when redeemable paper money will be the common currency, with a sufficiency of coin for the purposes of small change. Such a state of things, founded on general confidence, is all that is wanted to bring back general prosperity in the community.—*Boston Gazette*.

Resumption.—The following paragraph from the Journal of Commerce, states facts, of which New York may be proud:

Land Ho!—Yesterday was a proud day for New York. It witnessed the restoration of specie payments in less than twelve months after one of the most fatal mercantile revolutions which ever happened. Such a recovery from such a wreck, the world never before saw. It is attributable, under the blessings of Heaven, to the energy, the sound intelligent good sense and moral integrity of our citizens. The Banks have resumed in the fullest sense of the term. They have also returned to the use of their own notes, which they now pay out as formerly. The hearts of our citizens were filled with joy at this, as well they might be.

Hold out faithful.

To restore tainted Meat.—If your meat is tainted, take it out of the pickle, wash it so as to cleanse it of the offensive pickle, then wash your barrel well either with a solution of lime or ashes; after which repack it, and between every layer of meat put a layer of charcoal until your barrel be full; then make a fresh pickle, strong enough to bear an egg or potato, and fill up your barrel. As you repack your pieces, it would be well to rub each with salt. Let it remain a week or ten days and the taint will have disappeared, and the meat restored to its original sweetness.—*Farmer & Gardener*.